

Appl. No. 09/446,550
Atty. Docket No. CM1519Q
Amdt Dated June 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2003
Customer No. 27752

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) Absorbent article comprising
an absorbent core defining a core region comprising a core backsheet material;
a chassis region surrounding said core region comprising a chassis backsheet material;
whereby at least the core backsheet material comprises a laminate;
said laminate comprising at least one polymeric layer comprising a vapour or gas permeable film material, and further comprising a fibrous layer positioned towards the outer side of the article during its intended use,
characterized in that said at least one polymeric layer is a unitary layer extending both into the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material,
and whereby the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material which comprises said unitary layer are each breathable and exhibit different degrees of breathability such that MVTR value of the core backsheet material is lower than of the chassis backsheet material, wherein said polymeric layer has a basis weight of greater than about 25 g/m² and comprises a polymeric matrix and particulate filler material embedded in said polymeric matrix and wherein said breathability is provided by cracks formed around said particulate filler material.
 2. (Previously Amended) An absorbent material according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric layer is wider than the fibrous layer.
 3. (Previously Amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that
in the core region the MVTR is at least 500 g/24hr/m².

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4. (Original) Absorbent article according to claim 3
further characterised in that
in the core region the MVTR is at least 1500 g/24hr/m².
5. (Previously Amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1
further characterised in that
the MVTR values of the backsheet of the chassis region surrounding the core region
are at least 20% higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the core region.
6. (Previously Amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1
further characterised in that
the MVTR values of the backsheet in the chassis region surrounding the core region
are at least 500 g/24hr/m² higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the
core region.
7. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 4, whereby
the filler material is calcium carbonate.
8. An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said polymeric layer in the
chassis region has a basis weight of less than 50 gsm.
9. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby said laminate layer has a basis weight of less than 70 gsm where it
comprises said polymeric layer and said fibrous layer.
10. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby said fibrous layer is a non-woven web.
11. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by heat or melt
bonding.
12. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by extrusion
coating.

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13. (Previously Amended) An absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by adhesive.

14. (Previously Amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1,
whereby the article is a baby diaper or an adult incontinence article.

Claims 15-20 (Withdrawn)